

BUPRESTIS

A semi-annual newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information about buprestids and students of this group

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Dear friends,

As you will read, there are some interesting news and opinions again. Although I do have very little time to work on my buprestids I enjoy receiving your news and bring it to your attention.

In my opinion things are going better when you do have better informations. So please don't hesitate to tell the others something of your experiences which are not yet worth while to be published somewhere else.

Some of us already met during the last years. I can imagine that there is a great interest for a buprestologists' meeting but on the other hand it will be limited by our private financial sources. Will you please write your opinion and your possibilities to me.

Which would be your favorite place for a meeting.

What time would be the best for you.

For our next BUPRESTIS I expect your news until 15 june, 1991.

Best wishes

Hans Mühle
Editor

A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Chuck **Bellamy** is nearly completed with a 1) revision of *Eudiadora* from Argentina and is waiting to see if any material exists from museums in Paraguay and SE Brazil; 2) revision of the genera and species of the Philippine Islands *Coroebus* group. The revision of *Agrilomorpha* is progressing slowly due to the complexity of the species/subspecies problem in the genus. The type of *Agrilomorpha rothschildi tasii* Cobos cannot be located and is required to validate some previous identifications and the concept of this taxon. Revisions of the following are recently begun with any and all material invited: 1) *Mundaria* and *Belgaumia*, both Kerremans and possibly synonymous, species from India, SE Asia, Borneo; 2) *Cyphothorax* from Central and South America, one sp. is being transferred from *Eudiadora* and two new species from Mexico, each from a unique male.

Gayle **Nelson** and Chuck **Bellamy** have begun a complete revision of the New World genus *Tyndaris* including the four subgenera defined by **Cobos** in 1980. We will be describing a number of new species, mostly from Mexico and analysing the genus in comparison to the subgenera and other groups placed in the Tyndarini.

Chuck **Bellamy** and Rick **Westcott** will be revising the agriline genus *Omochyseus* from Central and South America and invite any colleague to send us any material of this interesting small group. There is one and possibly two undescribed species involved will very few specimens of all species known.

Peng Zhong-liang is doing the part *Buprestidae* for the book "Hunan Forest Insects". In this book more than 5,000 species of forest insects from Hunan, a province of Central China, are described and all figured. It contains 50 species of buprestids, including two new species and 6 new records for the Chinese fauna.

Mark **Volkovitch** and Rick **Westcott** are going to describe a new species of *Cochinchinula*.. By the way, Mark wants to excuse himself for the long delay in sending back vast material of *Acmaeoderini* which had been sent to him for determination.

B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

Chuck **Bellamy** is asking for any species of the genus *Eudiadora*, *Agrilomorpha*, *Mundaria*, *Belgaumia*, *Cyphothorax*, Philippine *Coroebus*, *Tyndarus* (or Gayle **Nelson**) and *Omochyseus* (or Rick **Westcott**). Anyone having material of these taxa is invited to send them along for identification or inclusion in our work.

Patrick **Bleuzen** is working on the genus *Actenodes* and is interested to see as much material as possible. Particularly Brazilian and Central American material. He is willing to determine your species.

C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

Gayle Nelson writes: It is important for me to see papers on Buprestidae, especially any that impact at all on North American fauna or have implications on buprestid taxonomy. Any of these need to be incorporated in my cataloging efforts of this family. I would appreciate receiving reprints from any and all of you from whom I do not already do so. I shall be glad to reciprocate with reprints of my own. It would be deeply appreciated if you would place my name on your mailing list for future papers as well.

D. FORUM

Chuck **Bellamy** gives a reply to Magnus **Peterson**: My original point was not to decry opposite or alternate points of views in our colleagues work but to encourage the more open communication that this newsletter provides for us so that we are not unsuspectingly confusing the nomenclature even more than it is already. By making brief statements of our intentions and research plans, we can invite more participation than some of us feel we already get and this will probably help to avoid any situations where eventual judgements on priority and flip-flop nomenclature happen. I fully agree that the healthiest situation is one in which vigorous testing and alternative points of view are expressed, but if in spending a brief period of time twice a year to let your colleagues know of your plans can help to avoid any further nomenclatural and /or priority problems, please take advantage of this forum.

Furtheron Chuck Bellamy sent obituaries for two of our colleagues:

George B. **Vogt**, a colleague of H.S.Barber and W.S. Fisher at the U.S.National Museum and research entomologist with the U.S.D.A. Southern Weed Science Lab, was found dead in his apartment in Washington, D.C. in early December. He will be remembered amongst the buprestid colleagues for his fine work on the "Buprestidae of South Texas" and for the incredible collection of leaf-mining buprestids from many areas of the New World. The collection number approximately 30,000 reared specimens complete with biological data. Early in his career he was assigned to survey for various biological control agents for introduced weeds and his travels have allowed him to collect in such diverse places as Afghanistan, Iran, No. India, various parts of So. and Central America and most importantly, he lived in Burma for two years in the early 50s. His collection of buprestids from Burma are perhaps some of the most significant known and it is estimated that as much as 50% of the species are undescribed.

I was fortunate to be working with him and to recently spend a month with him in Malaysia to learn of his techniques and from his great store of knowledge. The entire of his collections will become part of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and eventually available for study by all interested researchers. There are available duplicates of his papers on buprestids, other coleoptera and various biological control projects.

Throughout his life, George called himself "an aspiring naturalist.": His advice was often sought, especially by practitioners in the field of biological control. George believed that we have a "moral obligation" to practice biological control of introduced pests. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

Chuck Bellamy

Gordon **Burns**, of Mornington, Victoria, Australia, passed away on 12 December 1990. He is survived by his wife Joy and three children. Gordon and Joy were nearing the completion and publication of the atlas of the Buprestidae of Victoria and he spent many years collecting throughout Australia. Although not widely known outside of Australia, Gordon's collecting prowess was widely known and appreciated by his colleagues down under. He has been honoured in recent years with, at least, three new species named for him: *Castiarina burnsii* Barker, *Synechocera burnsii* and *Dinocephalia burnsii*, both Bellamy.

I was fortunate to know Gordon personally as my host during a collecting trip to Australia in 1979/1980. I remember him as a typical rabid collector in the field and a delightful persona with a wonderful sense of humor. I have recently received a specimen of a exciting new genus and species from South Australia and I will plan to dedicate this genus in Gordon's memory. I am happy to report that Gordon's son Gary has a new found interest in buprestids from his father's influence and currently is collecting the species found on Tasmania. Gordon will be missed by both those who knew him and all of his buprestological colleagues.

Chuck Bellamy

Already last spring Tao-Qian **Hou** has visited Germany and I (Hans **Mühle**) had the great pleasure to be his host for some days. We discussed a lot of problems and agreed to cooperate to learn as much as possible of the Chinese buprestids. As you can imagine there is hardly no literature in China and Hou also should have a lot of different buprestids for a representative collection. Perhaps we all can help a little bit with duplicates.

Franco **Tassi**, born in Rome in 1938, has been a very active and keen entomologist from his young age, specializing in Buprestidae but studying also other groups of Coleoptera. His background is in Social Sciences, but he has devoted much time also in Natural Sciences, publishing more than one hundred scientific contributions and lecturing in Italian Universities in Nature Conservation and Applied Ecology. Since 1969, having been appointed as Superintendent of Abruzzo National Park and involved in many very demanding environmental tasks, he was forced to abandon active entomology and could no longer study, prepare or even collect (almost!), Buprestid beetles; but he has kept in this field as well his deep interest as his large collection. He hopes to try again one day, and may be will be able, with the help of some colleagues, to get involved again in some field/laboratory activities during next years.

For the present time, he will exchange very gladly reprints and specimens worldwide. Anyone interested in, might send his list of oblata and desiderata (or directly specimens, prepared or not - but well labelled - from his country) and expect responses and exchanges. Please be patient! I am often very busy, but my reply will certainly come!

He writes furtheron:

Would you attend an International BUPRESTIS Meeting?

I am very interested to, and I shall do my best; it is important to know dates and places very much in advance.

REGARDING PLACE; Praha would be probably the best choice in Europe; but also California, Mexico, Japan, India or Australia might prove extremely interesting. The support of one University or other Institution seems to be essential.

Would you present a paper at the meeting?

Probably yes, my current interest is especially in ecology, biogeography and conservation of Buprestidae worldwide, in association with plants, vegetation and forest ecosystems.

Mark **Volkovitsh** wrote to me for several times. He told me that now life is quite difficult in Soviet Union but not as bad as it is reported by television or written in newspapers. But he writes very bad news of Anatoly **Alexeev**. Already in July Alexeev has had an accident; he had been run over by a motor-cycle. Both legs are strongly broken. Our very best wishes for a soon and complete recovery!

Rick **Westcott** sent the following "Mexican Novel":

MEXICO REVISITED TWICE

In a continuing and seemingly unquenchable (insane?) quest for the bullet-shaped and often brightly colored Buprestidae, I traveled to Mexico July 20 -31 and October 24 - November 7. The trips are a study in contrasts:

The first, with fellow beetle chaser Bill **Barr** (Buprestidae, Cleridae) and Dick **Penrose** (Cerambycidae), took us to Puerto Vallarta on beautiful Banderas Bay, where Bill kindly had obtained a condominium for a week at the 'Bogavillas' Sheraton Resort. It surely made the hot, humid climate more bearable. Based here, we collected from seashore to pine-oak forests at 915 meters in the mountains, but never more than 130 kms distant. We even collected in a forested coffee plantation, where the owner offered to put us up at his house; instead, we accepted his offer of a beer! The countryside was lush, the butterflies abundant, beautiful and varied; the mangos plentiful, delicious and cheap (1000 pesos/kilo) . . . but, alas, our primary entomological quests went largely unfulfilled. However, of note were two specimens of *Omochyseus* n. sp. and a few of what appears to be recently described *Chrysobothris nigropicta* Nelson.

We proceeded 160 kms south to Estación Biología Chamela, where we spent most of our remaining 4 days. The rains had come early here, but our arrival found them lacking the previous 20 days. Though the weather was sunny, hot and humid, insect activity was relatively low. The lush green foliage of the tropical forest belied the dryness within. Our beetle prey remained few and far between, which was in marked contrast to the superb and plentiful cuisine served by the station. Valuable professional contacts were made here too. Of course worth mentioning were two new buprestid records for the Station, *Acherusia tristis* and *Actenodes* sp. (Can you help us, Patrick?). However, my primary interest for the trip was to collect *Acmaeodera*; in this I failed miserably.

Although we traveled about the same overall distance (_+ 1700 kilometers) on both trips, that in the fall took us much further afield. Alan **Mudge** (co-worker and general beetle collector); Don **Breakey** alias "The Snoring Gringo" (professor at Willamette Univ.; spider chaser); Dale **Christenson** (dentist, photographer and butterfly chaser), Chuck **Bellamy** (does he need introduction?!) and I descended upon Acapulco, where we rented three vehicles. What a sight we must have been with our nets, beating sheets and cameras on the highways and byways of Mexico. Where the July itinerary confined us to small areas of Nayarit and Jalisco, the fall jaunt took us into six states and the Federal District, as far as Orizaba in Veracruz which is about 690 kms from Acapulco. We went from sealevel to about 3800 meters (on the flanks of the 5460 meter ice cream cone that is Volcán Popocatepetl - magnificent!), traversing varied habitats from tropical lowland and deciduous forests, thru oak, pine and Douglas-fir, to scrub and desert. As last year, I continued in awe of the "Cactus Wonderland" near Tehuacán. Here is reported to be the greatest variety of cactus on earth . . . to see is to believe! Also impressive were numerous large trees in full lavender-pink bloom on some hillsides in Puebla State, and the rather surprising fall color in the drier tropical deciduous thorn forests north of Chilpancingo, Guerrero. This time I returned home with my camera and film. However, Dale was not so lucky: he lost all his camera equipment, watch - even the shirt off his back to the "Cornfield Bandit of Huapanapan"!

From October 31 - November 2 we witnessed the activities surrounding All Souls Day. It is a time when Mexicans honor their dead through Halloween-like celebrations and floral displays, most commonly using a marigold called "flor de muerte". Fields of these were in bloom, being harvested and sold by the bundle along roadsides and in the marketplaces - very colorful! Mass visitations to cemeteries (something lasting all night) highlight the period, which coincides with the festive corn harvest. For details read the October issue of "Natural History" magazine.

Interesting as it was from the standpoint of varied landscapes, peoples (notably the Oaxacan Indians in their bright red and white garb, and a drunken truck driver who bought us beers in a bar in Huajuapán de León), quaint lodgings (Alan's favorite was the rather fashionable 'Hotel Colonial' in downtown Cuautla, Morelos; however, they were all without either cockroaches or bedbugs!), food and libations (loved the 'Negra Modelo' and 'tacos al pastor!'), the memories of this trip are tarnished: In addition to the misfortune noted above, Chuck and I were bitten by the infamous 'mordida' from two Mexico City cops (surely neither Chuck or I will ever again drive in Mexico City, and I urge you all to follow our example!), plus we all fell prey to the much less evil "Bandidos de Los Estaciones de Gasolina". All this would have been easier to endure if beetle collecting had not again been well below average; however, come see our pretty butterflies! Well, I must mention the discovery of an astounding new species of *Paratyndaris*, plus a few more specimens of the various new species of *Acmaeodera* that we are describing. And Don was so pleased with all his spiders! Also on a bright side were the scarcity of mosquitoes, chiggers and, with but one minor exception, the inability of 'Montezuma' to wreak upon us his revenge.

I swore (hardly unusual) several times during the trip that I would not return to mainland Mexico; however, I'll be back! Field entomologists tend to be gluttons for punishment, I believe . . . and a bit crazy besides; so won't you join us for "The Assault on the Buprestidae of Mexico - 1992"?!

E. PUBLICATIONS

Barker, S. (1990) Two replacement names in *Castiarina*. Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 114:105

(1990) New species of *Castiarina* (Col.:Bup.) and redescrptions of *C.diversa* (Kerremans) and *C.elderi* (Blackburn). Trans.R.Soc.S.Aust.114:169-178

Bellamy, C.L. (1990) Revision of the coroebine genus *Coraebosoma* Obenberger (Col.:Bup.:Agrilinae). Ent.scand. 21:197-210

Bily, S. (1990) A revision of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *weyersi*, species-group from South-East Asia (Col., Bup.). Acta Entomol.Bohemslov.87:128-140

, **Somorjai, G.** (1989) *Anthaxia* (*Melanthaxia*) *balatonica* n.sp. from Central Europe (Col.,Bup.). Elytron 3:41-43

Bleuzen, P. (1989) *Colobogaster pillaulti* Thery 1937 nouveau synonyme de *Colobogaster eximia* Gory 1841 (Col.:Bup.). Ann.Soc.ent.Fr.(N.S.) 25:118

(1989) Nouvelles espèces du genre *Actenodes* Solier (Col.: Bup.: Chrysobothrinae, Actenodini). Bull.Sciences Nat n° 62:9-12

(1990) Notes sur les *Actenodini* Africains: Revalidation du genre *Embrikiola* Obenberger 1928: *Embrikiola simulans gabonica* nouvelle sous espèce (Col.,Bup.). Bull.Sciences Nat n° 67: 7-8

Brandl, P. (1990) Zum Vorkommen von *Anthaxia mendizabali* Cobos in Bayern (Col., Bup.). Nachrichtenblatt Bay.Ent.39:91-94

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Gutowski, J.M. (1990) Collection of *Buprestidae* at the Institute for Plant Protection in Poznan. Prace Naukowe IOR Poznan 30, 1988:183-200 (in Polish)

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Hattori, T. (1990) Studies on the *Buprestidae* (Col.) of Taiwan. I. A new genus and species of the tribe *Coraebini*. Elytra 18:...

(1990) A record of *Chalcophora yunnana formosana* Y. Kurosawa, 1974 come flying under the light. Coleopterists' News 91:2

Hawkeswood, T. (1991) Notizen zu Biologie und einer neuen Wirtspflanze von *Cyphogastra bruijini* Lansberge in Papua-Neuguinea (Col.:Bup.:Chalcophorinae). Ent.Zeitschrift 101:28-31

Heliövaara, K.; Väisänen, R. & Mannerkoski, I. (1990) *Melanophila formaneki* (Jakobson) (Col.,Bup.) new to Finland. Entomol.Fennica 1:221-225

Kalashian, M. (1990) *Sphenoptera khesrovica* sp.nov.- a new species of buprestid-beetles from Armenia. Rep.Acad.Sc.Arm.88...(in Russian)

Mühle, H. (1990) Bemerkungen zu *Julodis onopordi/andreae* und *J.iris/euphratica* (Col.,Bup.) Verh.Westd.Ent.Tag 1989,p.39-42

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Nelson, G.H. , MacRae, T.C. (1990) Additional notes on the biology and distribution of *Buprestidae* in North America, part III. (Col.:Bup.) Coleopts. Bull. 44:349-354

Niehuis, M. (1990) Die Prachtkäfer (Col.:Bup.) der Nördlichen Sporaden (Griechenland, Ägäis). Mainzer Naturw.Archiv 28:109-135

Peng, Z. (1990) Two new species and two new records of the genus *Coraebus* from Jiangxi, China. Acta Agr. Univ. Jiangxiensis N°.40:11-13

Peterson, M. (1989) Taxonomic and correlated nomenclatural notes on *Stigmodera obesissima* Thomson and *Nascioides parryi* (Hope) (Col.:Bup.). G. it. Ent. 4: 205-212

Sakalian, W.P. (1990) A contribution to the study of the family *Buprestidae* (Col.) in Bulgaria. Acta Zool. Bulgarica 39:37-41

(1990) New data for Bulgarian species from the family *Buprestidae* (Col.) Acta Zool.Bulgarica 40:67-71

Viallier, J. (1990) Necrologie: Léon Schaefer (1900-1989). Bull. mens. Soc. linn. Lyon 59:6-7

Westcott, R.L. (1990) Notes on taxonomy, ecology and distribution for some species of *Chrysobothris* Eschscholtz occurring in the United States (including Hawaii) and Canada (Col.:Bup.). Coleopts. Bull.44:323-343 (*Please note that of this paper reprints are NOT available*)

(1990) A new synonym in *Mastogenius* Solier (Col.:Bup.). Pan-Pacific Ent. 66:256-257